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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

February 1, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1634

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/089,177; Filed: March 27, 2002
For: **Highly Conserved Genes and Their Use to Generate Species-Specific, Genus-Specific, Family-Specific, Group-Specific and Universal Nucleic Acid Probes and Amplification Primers to Rapidly Detect and Identify Algal, Archaeal, Bacterial, Fungal, and Parasitical Microorganisms from Clinical Specimens for Diagnosis**

Inventors: Bergeron *et al.*
Our Ref: 1619.0090000/SRL/KPQ

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), with addendum attached;
2. Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover the extension of time fee;
3. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and
4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
February 1, 2005
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Katrina Y. Pei Quach
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 51,063

SRL/KPQ/dms
Enclosures